



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Health Care Quality and Cost Council  
Two Boylston Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
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**JUDYANN BIGBY, M.D.**  
Chair

**KATHARINE LONDON**  
Executive Director

Health Care Quality and Cost Council  
Wednesday, October 17, 2007  
**1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.**  
One Ashburton 21<sup>st</sup> Floor, Room 1  
Boston, MA

Attendees: JudyAnn Bigby (chair), Charlie Baker, Kevin Beagan, Elizabeth Capstick, James Conway, David Friedman, Kenneth LaBresh, Joseph Lawler, Tom Lee, Shannon Linde, Katharine London, Dolores Mitchell, Robert Seifert, Gregory Sullivan

Meeting called to order at 1:15pm

**I. Approval of Minutes**

The Council approved the minutes of its meeting on October 3, 2007.

**II. Executive Director Report**

- The Council discussed a draft letter in support of bills involving public reporting of hospital acquired infections and never events. Council members are advised to review the draft letter closely and send any recommendations to Katharine London before the submission deadline.
- Katharine London sent out a list of questions to Council members to assist them as they reach out to organizations in Massachusetts. The need to reach out to other organizations is pivotal to the Council's success in setting and reaching goals for the Commonwealth.
- The Council's FY09 budget proposal was submitted to the legislature. November 15, 2007 the Council is expecting to hear back about additional health reform funding for FY08.
- The Council's communication vendor, *SolomonMcCown&*, has met with several Council and Advisory committee members and will continue to meet with members in an effort to gather people's perspectives and opinions on the Council's website. *SolomonMcCown&* associates will attend the next Council meeting to give an update on the projects they have been working on and to present strategies and plans moving forward.
- The Council is currently working on developing a Data Release Regulation to protect the confidentiality of the data that health plans will be required to submit

under Regulation 129 CMR 2:00 Uniform Data Collection Standards. The Data Release Regulation will establish the Council's procedures and criteria for releasing the dataset to members of the public, including application process, review process, data security requirements, and methods for protecting confidential data.

- The Council will also be working on drafting RFP's for an Analysis vendor and Web Development to move forward with the website project.

## **II. Items for Discussion**

### **Election of Officers**

The Council elected Joseph Lawler as Vice Chair and Elizabeth Capstick as Secretary of the Health Care Quality and Cost Council. Elizabeth Capstick replaces Bob Seifert who will be leaving Massachusetts Medicaid Policy Institute and will be stepping down as the MMPI's representative on the Council at some point in the coming months.

### **Presentation from the Council's Health Claims Data Manager vendor, the Maine Health Information Center**

Jonathan Harvell of the Maine Health Information Center (MHIC), the new Data Manager contractor, gave the Council an overview of what is to come within the next couple of months. MHIC used New Hampshire's project timeline, which has a similar scope to the Massachusetts project, to give the Council an anticipated time for when the different project components will come together. MHIC announced that they already heard from three major payers in MA. The statistical plan will be available to the Council by next week.

The Council discussed MHIC's proposed timeline. Council members suggest that issues be brought to the attention of the Council as they become apparent in moving forward with this project. MHIC assured the Council that any issues will be addressed on a timely basis. MHIC also discussed its partnership and relationship with Mass Data Consortium and MassPro as its data security backup location.

The Council discussed protocols for data security. MHIC assured the Council that data security is a high priority in this project. MHIC has a standard data dictionary that is currently being modified to fit the Massachusetts project.

The Council discussed race and ethnicity data and expressed concern in how this data is going to be collected and reported. Katharine London announced that Boston Foundation has volunteered to be the convener in working with the Council in this area, and plan to meet with the Council early November. MHIC is already talking about these measures.

The Council discussed the C.58 technical corrections bill. Katharine will review the language and follow up with Michael Varadian regarding the status of the Bill. The Council discussed changes in the last sentence on Chapter 58.

**The Council voted to go into Executive Order to review the performance of the HCQCC Executive Director, Katharine London.**

Meeting Adjourned 1:50